

Colorado Water Congress
State Affairs Committee Meeting
Report prepared by Bruce Whitehead
Sponsored by the Southwestern Water Conservation District

April 20, 2015 Water Legislation Report #15 (2015 Legislative Session)

The State Affairs Committee met on Monday, April 20, 2015 to discuss water legislation introduced during the 2015 Session. Discussion occurred, or action was taken on the bills included in the summary below. All legislation considered by the Water Congress is included in this week's report, and once the State Affairs Committee has taken action on a bill it will be moved to the status sheet the following week. A Legislative Report will be sent out after the next meeting, which is yet to be determined. The First Regular Session of the Seventieth General Assembly is scheduled to adjourn sine die on May 6, 2015.

Other legislation introduced, or requested for discussion or action, since the last meeting: **SCR15-002 (Ballot Procedure Citizen-initiated Amendments)**. This legislation is a Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR).

Proposed Legislation: There has been discussion about possible legislation regarding a tax credit for watershed health and fire mitigation work, but no bill has been introduced to date.

The format of each bill includes five columns and a following **Summary** cell. The 1st, 2nd, 4th, & 5th column each contain two information items as follows: 1st column has both the **Bill No.** and the **Short Title**. The 2nd column has both the **Sponsors** and the assigned **Committee**. The 3rd column contains only the **Concerning** statement, copied directly from the bill. The 4th column will show important **Amendments** and **Comments** provided by either me or John Porter. The 5th column shows both **When Introduced** and **CWC Action**. Once a bill no longer requires SA Comm action I will include it in a summary table, which will also show its progress. Until CWC takes action, the bill will remain in this format. I will however, **highlight in yellow** changes in any of the cells, compared to the prior report. Once CWC has acted on a bill, it will be moved to the **Status table**, where its progress can be more easily monitored.

If you are aware of other entities that would like to receive these reports, please contact the Southwestern Water Conservation District office at 970-247-1302 and provide your e-mail.

Once introduced, copies of bills are available at www.leg.state.co.us. Additional info is available at the CWC web site:
<http://www.cowatercongress.org/stateaffairs/>

FYI: Legislator Contact Information

Senator Ellen Roberts: 303-866-4884

ellen.roberts.senate@state.co.us

Representative J. Paul Brown: 303-866-2914

jpaul.brown.house@state.co.us

Representative Don Coram: 303-866-2955

don.coram.house@state.co.us

Bill No. Title	Sponsors Committee	Concerning	Amendments Comments	When Introduced CWC Action
<p>SCR15-002</p> <p>Ballot Procedure Citizen-initiated Amendments</p>	<p>S Roberts and Steadman</p> <p>State, Veterans, & Military Affairs</p>	<p>SUBMITTING TO THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE STATE OF COLORADO AN AMENDMENT TO THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION CONCERNING PROCEDURES RELATED TO A CITIZEN-INITIATED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, REQUIRING PRIOR AUTHORIZATION BY A MAJORITY OF VOTERS AT A GENERAL ELECTION BEFORE AN INITIATED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT IS PLACED ON THE BALLOT AT THE FOLLOWING ODD-YEAR ELECTION FOR THE VOTERS TO APPROVE OR REJECT; REQUIRING THE NONPARTISAN RESEARCH STAFF OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PREPARE A BALLOT INFORMATION BOOKLET PRIOR TO AN AUTHORIZATION QUESTION AND, IF THE QUESTION IS APPROVED, TO CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARINGS ABOUT THE AMENDMENT IN EACH.</p>		<p>04/08/15</p> <p>DISCUSSION</p>
<p>SUMMARY: The resolution establishes a new 2-election process for an initiative petition to amend the state constitution. After the petition and necessary signatures are filed with the secretary of state, an authorization question for the measure is submitted to the voters at the next general election. The authorization question asks voters whether there should be an election to consider the proposed amendment to the constitution. Prior to the election for the authorization question, the nonpartisan research staff of the general assembly (staff) is required to prepare a blue book for the measure that is the basis of the question. If the voters approve the authorization question, then, and not otherwise, the measure is submitted to the voters for their approval or rejection at the odd-year election held in the next November. During the year following an approved authorization question, staff is required to conduct at least one public hearing about the related measure in each congressional district. The new procedure does not apply to an initiated constitutional amendment that only repeals a provision of any amendment to the constitution that was adopted prior to 2015.</p>				